



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,123	07/15/2003	Alois Schoenweger	3201-338 (D4700-00351)	7851
8933 7590 02/05/2007 DUANE MORRIS, LLP IP DEPARTMENT 30 SOUTH 17TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-4196			EXAMINER GROSSO, HARRY A	
			ART UNIT 3781	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	
3 MONTHS			02/05/2007	
			DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/620,123	SCHOENWEGER, ALOIS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harry A. Grosso	3781	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7-10,12 and 15-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7-10,12,15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 14, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "the side wall box" appears at the end of line 6 of the amended claim. It appears some verbiage has been omitted in this line. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humber (6,129,109) in view of Condon et al (5,653,254) (Condon).

1. Regarding claim 1, Humber discloses a flush-mounting box with an open front, an edge, sidewalls, a base (Figures 1- 4) and a flange (42). The device has plural means on the box (48) for fastening the flange and the flange can be fastened a

Art Unit: 3781

variable distance from the front edge (column 2, lines 15-22). Plumbing elements can be installed within the box through openings (fittings) in the sidewalls (Figure 4).

Humber does not teach protruding eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base. Condon discloses a flush-mounting box with attachment means around the front opening and eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base for additional mounting rigidity (39a, 39b, Figures 3, 6 and 9, column 3, lines 48-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base as disclosed by Condon in the box disclosed by Humber to provide means for additional mounting rigidity.

2. Regarding claim 2, Humber discloses the flange is a solid ring (Figure 1).
3. Regarding claims 4 and 12, Humber discloses the flange is fastened directly to the box from the open front of the box.
4. Regarding claim 15, Humber discloses the flange may be latched into position. (column 2, lines 15-22).
5. Claims 1-4, 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossert, of record, in view of Condon.
6. Regarding claim 1, Bossert discloses a flush-mounted box with an open front (Figures 4 and 5), an edge (y), and a flange (a) on an outside of the box. The box has plural means (m) for fastening the flange to the box at variable distance back from the edge (page 1, lines 79-94). Plumbing elements can be installed within the box through openings (fittings) in the device created by removing typical knock-outs.

Bossert does not teach protruding eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base. Condon discloses a flush-mounting box with attachment means around the front opening and eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base for additional mounting rigidity (39a, 39b, Figures 3, 6 and 9, column 3, lines 48-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base as disclosed by Condon in the box disclosed by Bossert to provide means for additional mounting rigidity.

7. Regarding claim 2, the flange is a solid ring (Figure 1).

8. Regarding claim 3, the device has a plurality of structures spaced back from the edge at the open front on the outer surface of the sidewall for fastening the flange.

9. Regarding claim 4, the flange is fastened directly to the box.

10. Regarding claim 10, the joint between the box and the flange is a bayonet joint.

11. Regarding claim 16, Bossert discloses a flush mounting box that has an open front at edge (y), a plurality of grooves on the outside of the sidewalls of the box (m) at different distances from the edge and a flange (a) with inward protrusions (e) that engage the grooves.

12. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ullman, of record, in view of Condon.

13. Regarding claim 1, Ullman discloses a flush-mounting box (12, Figures 1 and 2) having an open front edge, sidewalls (40), a flange (20) and plural means (44) on the box for fastening the flange at a variable distance from the edge. Plumbing elements

Art Unit: 3781

can be installed within the box through openings in the device created by removing typical knock-outs (47).

Ullman does not teach protruding eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base. Condon discloses a flush-mounting box with attachment means around the front opening and eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base for additional mounting rigidity (39a, 39b, Figures 3, 6 and 9, column 3, lines 48-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of eyes extending from the sidewalls adjacent to the base as disclosed by Condon in the box disclosed by Ullman to provide means for additional mounting rigidity.

14. Regarding claim 3, the device has a plurality of structures spaced back from the edge at the open front on the outer surface of the sidewall for fastening the flange (column 5, lines 55-69).

15. Regarding claim 4, the flange is fastened directly to the box.

16. Regarding claim 7, the flange and the sidewall are engaged at ribs (44) having 0 degrees pitch angle on the flat side.

17. Regarding claims 8 and 9 the ribs are interrupted down to the root of the ribs.

Allowable Subject Matter

18. Claims 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 3781

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 1-10, 12, 15 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harry A. Grosso whose telephone number is 571-272-4539. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Anthony Stashick
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3781

hag

